

**CITY OF NEWARK**  
**Newark, Delaware**

**TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 15, 2013**  
**3:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Chief Paul Tiernan, Charles Zusag, Lt. Bill Hargrove, Marvin Howard, Roy Simonson, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins

**Guests:** Jerry Clifton, District 2  
Albert Porach, Newark resident

**1. REQUEST FOR A PAINTED YELLOW CURB OR SIGN TO PROHIBIT PARKING IN FRONT OF A RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAY AT 50 E. MAIN STREET.**

This item was received by a resident. Roy Simonson said he located the address on Google Earth, and coincidentally when he did there was a car parked in front of this driveway. Roy said he feels this is an enforcement issue. Lt. Hargrove said this location is enforced on a regular basis. Lt. Hargrove said there are apartments located in the back of the building, and when a car parks here it blocks access to the driveway until the car is towed. Lt. Hargrove said the parking enforcement officers would like it to be more noticeable that parking is prohibited.

Tom Parkins said he drove past this location today and noticed other similar driveways on Main Street have a painted yellow curb heading down the driveways. Lt. Hargrove said at the time the picture was taken the curb was painted yellow. Lt. Hargrove said the driveway is very narrow in between the buildings and may be another reason why people park there. Marvin Howard said he feels violators are aware this is not a parking space because there is no free parking on Main Street.

Charlie Zusag suggested painting a yellow "x" in the space in front of the driveway to make it more noticeable to drivers. Roy Simonson said he doesn't know that a yellow "x" would solve the problem, however feels it would reduce the problem.

Lt. Hargrove said if a someone parks here a ticket is written unless someone is blocked in which case the vehicle would be towed.

Lt. Hargrove said the parking enforcement officers suggested obtaining approval from the property owner to post a sign on the wall of the building. Charlie suggested to post a sign that reads, "Driveway Do Not Block". Chief Tiernan asked if it would be more visible to place a sign on the telephone pole. Dave Gula felt there are more issues with pole mounted signs versus signs posted on buildings.

Tom Parkins asked if there is a policy against using paint. Roy said it becomes costly to maintain on a regular basis, and if not maintained it is unattractive.

**MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY LT. HARGROVE, FOR MARVIN HOWARD TO CONTACT THE PROPERTY OWNER REGARDING INSTALLING A SIGN ON THE WALL OF THE BUILDING THAT READS, "DRIVEWAY DO NOT BLOCK".**

**MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 1.**

**2. REQUEST TO RELOCATE THE EXISTING DART BUS STOP LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF MARROWS ROAD NORTH OF WHITE CHAPEL DRIVE THAT POSES A SAFETY CONCERN TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF WHITE CHAPEL DRIVE.**

Chief Tiernan said this item was received by Councilmember Clifton.

Mr. Clifton said he would like to see the bus stop removed from the turn lane heading south toward Brookside on Marrows Road. This bus that stops at this location turns into White Chapel neighborhood proceeds around the townhouses and exits heading north on Marrow's Road toward Wyoming Road. Mr. Clifton said a delineated crosswalk does not exist on the north side of White Chapel Drive but rather on the south side.

Mr. Clifton said approximately one month ago at 6:30 p.m. it was dark and he was exiting White Chapel Drive heading north on Marrows Road. The car in front of him locked up their brakes and Mr. Clifton noticed there was a mother crossing in front of the bus and her two children were crossing the street and happened to be in the lane the car in front of him was turning into.

Mr. Clifton said a couple nights after this occurred the bus was parked in the turn lane with their lights on. Mr. Clifton proceeds around the bus to make a right turn onto White Chapel Drive at the same time a pedestrian stepped out in front of the bus and almost crossed in front of him.

Mr. Clifton would like to see the crosswalk relocated to the south side of White Chapel Drive and if so it would allow pedestrians to cross at a delineated crosswalk at a safer location and it would also free up the turn lane.

Roy asked if the Police Department would communicate with DART regarding this request. Chief Tiernan said the Traffic Committee would send a letter to DART with a recommendation.

Tom Parkins asked if it would be too much of an inconvenience to reeducate bus riders of the bus stop relocation. Mr. Clifton said the loop around White Chapel is short from a time frame standpoint and feels their safety is the primary concern.

Lt. Hargrove said as it currently exists there are two bus stops, one on Marrows Road and one on White Chapel Drive within a short distance from one another. Lt. Hargrove said a lot of residents from Kimberton use bus transportation and in order to cross the road legally they should cross White Chapel Drive and then cross Marrows Road. Mr. Clifton said he has seen many pedestrians cross Marrows Road in front of the bus crossing illegally instead of using the crosswalks and crossing legally.

Dave Gula said DART's concern will be a sidewalk connection. Dave also said they could do a pad without a sidewalk which has been done in more rural areas. Dave said a meeting will have to be held with DART and suggested contacting Cathy Smith in the planning department for the bus stop removal and relocation.

**MOTION BY CHARLIE ZUSAG, SECONDED BY DAVE GULA, TO SEND A LETTER TO DART WITH THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO REMOVE AND RELOCATE THE DART BUS STOP.**

**MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0.**

**3. REQUEST FROM UDPD TO ADD PAINTED CROSSWALKS IN THE AREA OF N. COLLEGE AVENUE AT RAY STREET AND N. COLLEGE AVENUE AT PROSPECT AVENUE.**

Lt. Hargrove said this item was received through the University of Delaware Public Safety and the University of Delaware Student Government Association. Lt. Hargrove said annually the association reviews campus safety concerns.

Lt. Hargrove said the complaint was received as the result of the development of north campus and students crossing at many locations on N. College Avenue and Prospect Avenue. Lt. Hargrove said the majority of pedestrians cross in the area of Prospect Avenue. Lt. Hargrove said it doesn't appear crosswalks have ever existed at Prospect Avenue. The crosswalk at N. College Avenue and Ray Street is faded and needs to be repainted.

Roy said crosswalks are locations where most pedestrians are struck by vehicles. Dave Gula asked if there is any accident history at this location. Lt. Hargrove said there have not been any accidents at these locations.

**MOTION BY LT. HARGROVE, SECONDED BY CHARLIE ZUSAG, TO REPAINT THE FADED CROSSWALK LOCATED AT RAY STREET.**

**MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 5 TO 2.**

**4. REQUEST TO ADD A CROSSWALK AND CROSSING SIGNALS AT ELKTON ROAD AND MCINTYRE DRIVE.**

Lt. Hargrove said last month there was a collision with a pedestrian and vehicle that occurred across from the Dunkin Donuts. Lt. Hargrove said a Dunkin Donuts employee was crossing Elkton Road at McIntyre Drive after her shift ended between the hours of 4:00-5:00 a.m. to access the DART bus stop.

Lt. Hargrove said there will be more pedestrian and vehicular traffic generated from the new Newark Charter High School and Twin Lakes frequenting such businesses as Dunkin Donuts, Wawa etc. and is concerned of the potential that more accidents of this type may occur.

Lt. Hargrove suggested the committee send a letter to DelDOT to review the intersection and consider pedestrian improvements. Chief Tiernan said in addition to a crosswalk there would need to be a light at this intersection with vehicles traveling in excess of 50 mph.

Dave Gula inquired if improvements were proposed as part of the next phase of Elkton Road. Dave said this may be included in the next edition of the CPT, which would be known by contacting DelDOT's traffic section.

**MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY LT. HARGROVE, TO SEND A LETTER TO DELDOT TO RECOMMEND A CROSSWALK AND CROSSING SIGNALS AT ELKTON ROAD AND MCINTYRE DRIVE.**

**MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0.**

**4. REQUEST FOR CROSSWALKS AT E. PARK PLACE AND MANUEL STREET, CHAPEL STREET AT E. PARK PLACE AND DELAWARE AVENUE AT HAINES STREET.**

Mr. Albert Porach said he lives at 220 E. Park Place. Mr. Porach said at least twice daily he walks to the intersection of E. Park Place & Manuel Street. Mr. Porach said standing in the crosswalk there is a poor line of sight looking west that is obstructed by traffic on the south side of E. Park Place. Mr. Porach said in order to obtain a clear line of sight pedestrians must walk out into the road to see traffic approaching from the west. Mr. Porach researched Delaware law and said it makes a distinction between marked and unmarked crosswalks. Mr. Porach said if a marked crosswalk exists the driver has additional responsibility to check for pedestrians in the crosswalk. Studies have shown that traffic slows at marked crosswalks. Mr. Porach would like to request marking the crosswalk at across E. Park Place at Manuel Street. Mr. Porach said ideally he would like a stop sign on E. Park Place making a four-way stop intersection. Mr. Porach said a traffic study in 2000 there were 7,000 cars a day within a 24 hour period and another traffic study conducted in 2002 there were 7,000-8,000 cars a day, 40% of vehicles were traveling in excess of 31 mph, 7,000 vehicles were traveling 35-40 mph, 2,400 vehicles were traveling 40-45 mph and 1,000 were traveling 45-50 mph.

The posted speed limit is 25 mph with a conclusion that 6 mph over the posted speed limit was acceptable. Mr. Porach said based upon the results of the traffic studies, he feels this is a safety concern for pedestrians and would like for the crosswalk to be marked and “Yield to Pedestrians” signs installed.

Mr. Porach said at E. Park Place and Chapel Street is a 3-way stop. Mr. Porach said at the right turn southbound on Chapel Street there is a sign stating right turning traffic need not stop. Mr. Porach said this poses a problem for pedestrians crossing the street with traffic heading from different directions. Mr. Porach said there are properties on the east side of Chapel Street that do not have sidewalks forcing pedestrians to walk out into the street heading toward the Hall Trail. Mr. Porach suggested removing the right turn without stopping.

Mr. Porach said the crosswalk at Haines Street and Delaware Avenue may be a DelDOT issue. Mr. Porach said crosswalks do exist although they are not clearly marked. Mr. Porach said this is a high speed road with two lanes of traffic crossing and one lane of traffic that stops while the other lane of traffic can keep moving.

Dave Gula said he doesn’t believe DelDOT installs “Yield to Pedestrians” signs in crosswalks.

Charlie Zusag said he doesn’t have any problems with painting crosswalks at E. Park Place and Manuel Street. Roy said this location is unprotected and crosswalks should be protected with stop signs. Dave said DelDOT is not in favor of unsignalized or unprotected crosswalks. Dave said DelDOT did approve a midblock crosswalk at Haines Street when work was redone on Delaware Avenue. Roy said studies show more pedestrians are hit in crosswalks than any other place and there is a false sense of security.

Roy said at E. Park Place and Chapel Street he would like to check the MUTCD and doesn’t believe it is legal to have a stop sign and a sign that says, “Do not stop” together.

Dave Gula said when the traffic studies were conducted the Hall Trail didn’t exist and currently there are more pedestrians as well as conflicts with pedestrians and vehicles as a result of the trail and feels now is the time to address this issue. Dave said it does provide a false sense of security, although if pedestrians are crossing anywhere it would be better to channel pedestrians to one location. Mr. Porach said according to Delaware law there is no requirement for drivers to take additional responsibilities at intersections, however if a crosswalk exists motorists must take additional responsibilities for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Lt. Hargrove said one option would be to install traffic classifiers to obtain more accurate data. Dave said he would like to check the Newark Circulation Study that was conducted a year ago and would like to see if E. Park Place was included. Tom Parkins said if there is a city wide study he felt it would be beneficial for the committee to review prior to the committee reviewing more requests for crosswalks.

**MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY ROY SIMONSON, TO TABLE THIS ITEM FOR A FUTURE MEETING FOLLOWING THE TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE NEWARK CIRCULATION STUDY.**

**MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0.**

There being no further business, Chief Tiernan called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY LT. HARGROVE, TO ADJOURN.**

**MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 7 TO 0.**

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Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman